

Lethbridge Experimental Station

FIREBLIGHT OF CRABAPPLES AND APPLES
The wet weather this spring and

summer has been very conducive to the spread of fireblight. So widespread has been the damage by this disease that it is imperative that something regarding fireblight be told. In order to understand this disease it must be possible to recognize it, know what causes it and finally how best to combat it.

Fireblight is caused by a bacteria which gains entrance to a tree through the blossoms and young growing tips. From the point of entrance it spreads rapidly up and down the twig causing the familiar singed look of leaves and the bark becomes a dark brownish-purple color that characterizes the outward symptoms of this disease. Progress of the disease is stopped at the end of the growing season and the infected tissue which is now dead shrinks and a mark is formed between dead and living tissue, setting off a definite area known as "canker". Though progress of the disease is halted with the oncoming of winter this canker, especially on the larger limbs, becomes the point from which more severe spreading of the disease may start with renewed activity when conditions once again become favorable.

The biggest worry concerning this disease is its control. The natural impulse is to cut off the infected twigs and limbs the moment it is discovered. This should not be done.

"DO NOT CUT OFF THE INFECTED PARTS DURING THE GROWING SEASON." It has been found through experience at the Lethbridge Experimental Station that pruning of the infected limbs and twigs during the summer only spreads the disease more. The infected parts should be cut out well below the diseased areas and immediately burned, during the dormant season and any diseased wood lying around becomes another good source of further infection. The tools need not be disinfected during the dormant season as they will not spread the



A new assistant in the CBC's Prairie Region Talk Department at Winnipeg is Bernard Trotter, formerly of Kingston, Ontario. Mr. Trotter is a graduate in arts of McMaster University and an N.A. of Queens. He studied at the Academy of Radio in Toronto during 1946-47. The west is new to him except for a war-time harvesting expedition in 1942, which took him into Swift Current, Sask.

bacteria. Since this is a bacterial disease sprays will not prevent or stop the disease. However, if aphids or ants are in abundance on a diseased tree they should be destroyed as they can readily carry the disease to healthy twigs.

The most positive way to control this disease is by using resistant varieties. The following varieties have shown resistance to a large degree at the Lethbridge Experimental Station.

APPLES—Haralson, Hoyer No. 2, Dr. Bill, Moscow Pear, Duchesne, Apple - Crabapple Hybrids—Trull, Wapella.

Crabapple—Dolgo, Garnet, Columbus, Florence.

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By
Dr. F. J. GREANEY
Director,
Line Elevators Farm Service,
Winnipeg, Manitoba.

L. B. Thomson, Director, P.F.R.A.

The recent appointment of Mr. L. B. Thomson, Superintendent, Dominion Experimental Station, Swift Current as Director of the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration, succeeding Mr. George Spence, is one that should give great encouragement to all farmers, technical agriculturists and agricultural organizations in Western Canada who realize what the development of a proper and effective soil conservation and land use program means to the future welfare of farming in Western Canada.

Mr. Thomson is well known to farmers and technical agriculturists in Western Canada. For over 20 years he has been closely identified with the activities of the P.F.R.A. His leadership in the battle against drought and soil erosion has been of the highest order. Indeed, no man in Western Canada is better qualified by training, experience and ability to direct the future activities of the P.F.R.A. than is L. B. Thomson. His vast store of practical and technical knowledge of prairie soils—their potentialities, limitations and peculiarities—will be an important asset in the development of a sound, permanent soil conservation and land use program for Canada. In the years ahead, the work of the P.F.R.A. under Mr. Thomson's leadership, will assume very great importance in the future economy of Western Canada.

The main functions of the P.F.R.A. are, of course, the rehabilitation and improvement of our prairie soils. This involves the conservation and proper utilization of our soil and water resources. It includes not only the preservation of the soil itself, however, but also the improvement of the soil through the use of natural manures, mineral fertilizers, efficient cropping methods, irrigation, drainage and flood control.

The Line Elevator Companies associated with this Department extend to Mr. L. B. Thomson, and his experienced staff of agricultural experts, every success in all their P.F.R.A. undertakings.

ing fireblight is concerned, is dependent upon dormant pruning of diseased limbs and growing of resistant varieties. For further details regarding fireblight write to the Dominion Experimental Station at Lethbridge.

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